

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7 and ending at line 10, as follows.

--The present invention relates to an image forming apparatus which mainly uses paper, film or cloth as a recording medium and records ~~record~~ an image thereon.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12 and ending at page 2, line 1, as follows.

--Heretofore, as recording methods for forming a monochromatic or color image, there have widely been used an electrophotography method and an ink jet method. Moreover, as a recording medium of these methods, an ink jet sheet is used in addition to ordinary paper. Among the ink jet sheets, there is used a recording paper having a special coating layer on a basic paper body. Such an ink jet sheet is carried to an image formation block normally by a duplo method using a recording medium feed roller and a friction pad or a retard method in which a recording medium is sandwiched by a normal rotation roller rotating in the recording medium conveyance direction and a reverse rotation roller rotating in the reverse direction, so that the paper is separated and supplied using a difference in the friction coefficients of these two rollers.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 5 and ending at line 20, as follows.

--However, conventionally, when the ink jet sheet is supplied to a predetermined image formation position by the aforementioned method, the ink jet sheet should be sandwiched by rollers to be carried to the image formation block. Moreover, when no image is to be recorded, the paper is usually sandwiched while waiting. Thus, when the paper is in contact with the rollers for a long time, the paper used as a recording medium may be contaminated. Especially in the case of the ink jet sheet, one side of the basic paper body has an absorption layer for absorbing an aqueous ink and this layer is easily contaminated by contact with the rubber roller. In an extreme case, this contamination changes a color of the image which has been recorded by the ink jet method.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 13 and ending at line 17, as follows.

--The figure ~~Figure~~ is a longitudinal cross sectional view for explaining a recording medium conveying unit of an image forming apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention and an image contamination preventing method in the conveying unit.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 5 and ending at line 10, as follows.

--In the figure, the dedicated paper coming out of the cassette A25 is fed successively by the rolled paper supply rollers 21, the rolled paper feed roller 20, a

paper guide 19, and a paper guide 14, and conveying roller 11 and conveyed to the platen 7 where an image formation is performed.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 11 and ending at page 9, line 2, as follows.

--In case of a long-medium printing in which the dedicated paper having an image formed is rolled up, the printer 1 ~~waits~~ waits in a state that the dedicated paper is sandwiched by the pressure roller 4 and a dependant roller 34. In this example, the position where the tip end of the dedicated paper is sandwiched by the following roller will be referred to as a home position. When the wait time exceeds a predetermined time (5 minutes in this embodiment), the printer sends out the dedicated paper by a predetermined amount (2 mm in this embodiment) by the feed roller 17 and stops. This operation is repeated until the accumulated feed amount is 100 mm. When the accumulated feed amount has become 100 mm, the dedicated paper is returned to the home position and the same operation is repeated. Thus, the portion of the recording medium held by the roller is changed one from another and this prevents contamination of the non-image portion of the recording medium.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 27 and ending at page 14, line 13, as follows.

--Moreover, it is also possible to apply the method of changing the medium holding portion as time passes like in the first and the third embodiment. When this method is used in combination, it is preferable that the pressure roller 4 and

the dependent conveying roller 5 be returned to their original states before feeding the dedicated paper. The dedicated paper discharged outside for image fixation and drying may be held/sandwiched by a roller and the like. Thus, when the methods are applied in combination, it is possible not only to avoid the contamination of the non-image region of the dedicated paper but also the image which has been recorded.--